

## M. HESS HOUSE

The house at #602 Baltimore Ave. together with its outbuilding comprises one of the last of the complexes that were so typical in a country town. The fine residence faces Baltimore Ave. and has behind it a chicken house, privy and a board-and-batten stable. This was the home of the Hess family who are said to have run a moving business. The large stable was for the horses which pulled vans that were stored in no longer extant sheds on the next lot.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA - 1416

PA61-0314165504

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

M. Hess House

AND/OR COMMON

602 Baltimore Avenue: Original property of Washington Townsend

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

602 Baltimore Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson, Maryland

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

second

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Miss Merle M. Yoder

Telephone #: 301-823-6317

STREET &amp; NUMBER

602 Baltimore Avenue

Maryland 21204

CITY, TOWN

Towson

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: WJR

Folio #: 3648/581

STREET &amp; NUMBER

400 Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

—EXCELLENT  
☒GOOD  
 —FAIR

—DETERIORATED  
 —RUINS  
 —UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

—UNALTERED  
☒ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ORIGINAL SITE  
 —MOVED DATE Spring, 1978

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The house at 602 Baltimore Avenue, a half a mile southeast to the nearest exit of the Baltimore-Washington Beltway (Route 695), is located approximately nine miles north of downtown Baltimore. The house is two blocks west of York Road, once the only highway leading from Baltimore to York, Pennsylvania, which is still a main thoroughfare in Towson, the county seat of Baltimore County. The house's proximity to the intersection of York and Joppa Roads, once the crossroads of Towson, giving this town its original character, is of historical as well as present significance to the house, which is just three blocks southwest of that intersection.

The house is a frame building, originally probably covered with clapboards, but now covered with green asbestos shingles. It is two stories, three bays wide, and two bays deep, built on an L-shape foundation. The foundation material is unusual, appearing to be an uncoursed formstone with beaded grouting, which may be indicative of an alteration.

The gabled roof is of slate shingles with two centrally located chimnies on either side of the large gabled dormer. Each of the gable-ends of the house are vented by a round arch window.

When facing the east facade, the central bay appears wider than the other two, with the wide front door entrance on the first floor, and two windows on the second floor central bay. The large gabled dormer at the top, centralizes the facade and gives a vertical emphasis to the central bay. Even the full front porch which covers the first story, does not detract from the vertical emphasis. The porch is supported by square columns made decorative by chamfered corners and scrolled brackets. The area between the porch and the brick peers it is resting on, is filled with green lattice work.

The most elegant feature of the house is its doorway which has a large rounded transom and sidelights with inset panels on the lower half. The glass is frosted with floral patterns. The other windows in the house are 2/2, with louvered shutters.

The house has a shorter two story projection at its west facade, which has an interior end chimney. The rear facade is windowless except for one small window on the first floor of the original L-shape building. The original L-shape of the house has been altered by a small half-room addition at the back.

The north facade is two bays deep and each of the four windows is 2/2, also with louvered shutters. The south facade while identical to the north, in the main block of the house, includes the extended part of the L-shape, with two extra windows, one on the first floor and one on the second directly above it.

There is a barn built on stone foundation of board and batton construction, at the west end of the property, which is approximately 1/4 of an acre. This structure is probably the last agricultural building on the district. A chicken house to the east of the barn has a shed roof and is now used for a garden shed.

The present owner of the house remembers a two-hole privy which was attached to the west end of the chicken house.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Oral history also provides us with information that the original owner of the property in the late 1800's, had a moving business. The barn was used to stable the horses and the vans were kept in a row of sheds that stood along Allegheny Avenue to the south, where Dr. Joshua Green's house now stands.

When entering the house one finds oneself in the central hall, which has a double parlor, one to the north and one to the south. The stairway leading to the second floor is straight ahead.

There is a fireplace in the south parlor on the north wall, which is of black marble containing a brown floral pattern inlay, and contains a latrobe stove. The chimney projects 21 inches out from the wall and is five feet in width. Around the doorways on the first floor is a reeded molding with bulls eye corner blocks.

The stairway is on the north wall of the central hall, and has open string scrolled step ends, turned ballasters, and a newel post.

The dining room, which is the north parlor, also contains a similar fireplace to the livingroom, the south parlor, with chamfered corners in the marble and a cartouch round-arched opening. The ceiling in both parlors is nine and a half feet. There is a built-in glass door china cupboard next to the fireplace on the south wall of the room.

A doorway on the west wall of the north parlor, leads into the kitchen, which forms the back section of the L-shape of the house. A doorway leading to a porch off the back of the house is on the south wall of the kitchen, and has a transom. To the south of this doorway is the pantry. On the west wall of the kitchen is a flew chimney, and to the right of it, is a doorway leading to the backstairs, which are dog-leg with winders.

At the top of the stairs a hallway runs along the north wall of the house. The doorway to the bedroom on this hall is four-panelled with raised panels, and the doorknob is of wood grain porcelain. There is an intricate floral pattern around the metal keyhole of the door. The bedroom appears to have once been two rooms, and the bathroom off it on the south wall, was probably once a porch.

At the end of the upstairs hall, as one approaches the east of the house, is the master bedroom, which also has another entrance from the front hall of the second floor. Along the south wall of this room is a cupboard which sticks out to make room for the chimney below. In the main block of the house the second floor reflects the first floor plan.

The stairs to the attic lead from this central second floor hall. The attic is a half story and is characterized by a trapazoid ceiling. There are machine cut laths in the ceiling and hair plaster between the laths. The staircase leading to the attic is unusually wide, accommodating easy storage

The basement, which is reached through a doorway at the east wall of the kitchen is a full basement made of uncoursed stone rubble, under the main block of the house. The portion under the kitchen is a crawl space which is connected to the main basement and is of the same material. Chimney supports, which are thirty inches thick by five feet deep, are visible in the cellar and are made also of uncoursed stone.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1877 - 1882

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house at 602 Baltimore Avenue, located two blocks north of the courthouse, is one of a dwindling number of small frame clapboard houses that once characterized the courthouse town. It stands on the most northwesterly corner of a parcel of land originally owned by one Washington Townsend, which in 1882, was divided into four lots. A barn stands at the most westerly section of the lot, and is the last structure in the district dating from the horse-drawn carriage era.

The proximity of the house to the courthouse gave its neighborhood, and indeed the whole town, a special place in county importance. The proposed historical district is now being threatened with continual high-rises that are being built for offices which are replacing the residential flavor of the district, once composed of eighteenth and nineteenth century structures.

The proximity of Baltimore to the district being surveyed, as one of its main suburbs, and the old York Road which runs north from Baltimore through Towson, two blocks east of 302 Baltimore Avenue, lends to its historical significance. The house is two blocks southwest of the intersection of York and Joppa Roads, the intersection of which gave Towson its original crossroads town character.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

## Primary Sources;

Baltimore County Land Records  
 Baltimore County Judicial Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4 acre

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The house is located on the west side of Baltimore Avenue, at a point distant fourteen degrees east. 109 feet measured along the west side of the said avenue, from the corner formed by the intersection of the west side of Baltimore Avenue with the north of Allegheny Avenue.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE L. NIELD, II  
 HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

Margaret Griffin

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Historic Towson, Incorporated

April 1978

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

120 Allegheny Avenue

301-823-3588

STATE

Towson

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH OF  
HOUSE AT 602 BALTIMORE AVENUE

BA-1416

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Liber</u>	<u>Folio</u>
Nov. 13, 1882/	Washington Townsend to John J. Yellot /		WMI	131/516
May. 19 1883 /	John J. Yellot to Mary E. Hess /		WMI	134/568
Dec. 27, 1889/	Mary E. Hess to Eliza Emory /		JWS	146/24
Mar. 22, 1895/	Eliza Emory to D. Hopper Emory and wife /		JWS	146/27
May 31, 1899/	D. Hopper Emory to Alexander McCurdy /		JWS	239/238
June 2, 1900/	Alexander McCurdy to Joshua R. Green M.D. /		NBM	246/102
Mar. 12, 1903/	Joshua R. Green M.D. to J. Talbott Booth /		NBM	268/143
Oct. 25, 1950/	J. Talbott Booth to Harry L. Warnken /		GLB	2841/322
Dec. 12, 1955/	Harry L. Warnken to Merle M. Yoder and /		WJR	3648/381
	Eleanor F. Pearce /			

The house at 602 Baltimore Avenue does not appear on the map of Towsontown in 1877, done by Wheeler and McLane. But because we know that Washington Townsend bought the tract of land from Enos Smedly in 1862 ( GHC 34/277 ) and that he sold his house on it in 1882, The house had to be built sometime between 1877 and 1882, a five year period.

1. Conservation of Historic and Cultural Resources. Ralph W. Miner. Chicago: American Society of Planning Officials. 1969.

This publication deals with actual methods of establishing historic districts. How you do it, why you do it, and some other issues. It also includes maintenance methods and public policy. It explains program frameworks; zoning, easement, urban renewal, Federally assisted projects, as well as tax incentives. Architecture review.

2. Economic Benefits of Preserving Old Buildings. National Trust for Historic Preservation. Washington D.C.: the Preservation Press. 1976.

An examination of how preservation can be profitable, uses one specific case study- Seattle. Municipal action as an encouragement to private investment in Preservation. Actual costs of preservation, availability of governmental assistance in the financing of Preservation. Talks about real estate and also preservation philosophy.

3. Historic Preservation in Inner City Areas; Arthur P. Ziegler. Pittsburgh: Ober Park Associates. 1974.

Includes principles and philosophy of preservation. Explains steps to creating an historic district. Zoning, Easements, and covenants for preservation. The importance of sparking Community interest, and how to stabilize districts esp. for lower income districts.

4. Monumentum. International Council of Monuments and Sites. Baltimore: J.D. Lucas Printing Co. Vol. XIII 1976

This publication deals with preservation in the U.S. and contains sections of interest ranging from US' role in international pres, to the impact of preservation law in the US, actual methods of pres, urban problems with preservation, as well as, technology, economics, and philosophy.

5. Preservation Easements. Maryland Historical Trust. Annapolis Md.: Dept. of Economic and Community Development. 1975

An explanation of easements and how to go about obtaining them, and also their effect on the owner of an easement property in the matter of restrictions and taxes.

6. Urban Homesteading; James W. Hughes and Kenneth D. Bleakly, Jr. New Brunswick: Center for Urban Policy Research. 1975

Examination of the quality of urban (historic district) life. Historical perspective as well as communities in operation, using certain cities as examples and evaluating them.



M. Hess House



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MD. DEPT. OF ASSESS. & TAX

SCALE IN FEET  
200 0 200 400 600

TOWSON  
SCALE 1" = 200'  
DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
TAX MAP DIVISION  
ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC BY THE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD. DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
TAX MAP DIVISION  
ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC BY THE

MAP NC  
70A

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET 70A

BR-1416



BA-1416

M. HESS HOUSE  
S.E. CORNER

W. NIELD

WINTER 77-78